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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/710,708

Examiner

Pascal M. Bui-Pho

Applicant(s)

CAPALDO ET AL.

Art Unit

2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 24 August 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4,5,11,13,15-21 and 40-44.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20061023.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


Georgia Epps
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is responsive to communications filed on 24 August 2006.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 25-32 and 34-39 have been cancelled.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Buckert on 23 October 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 13, 15-21, and 40-44 are allowed over prior art.
3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior arts of record fail to anticipate and/or render obvious, either solely or in combination, a system for detecting defects in a light-management film, comprising, among other features, a fourth light source configured to emit light onto a first side of the light-management film in a second predetermined region of the film; a second camera configured to receive a third portion of light reflected from the second predetermined region of film from a third light source and a fourth portion of light propagating through the film from the fourth light source, the second camera further configured to generate a second image from the third and fourth portions of light; and a signal-processing device operably coupled to a first and the second

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camera, the signal-processing device configured to provide a summed image by summing the first and second images, the signal-processing device further configured to detect at least one defect in the film based on the summed image (**Claims 1 and 21**).

The prior arts of record fail to anticipate and/or render obvious, either solely or in combination, a method for detecting repeating defects in a light-management film, the method comprising, among other steps, summing each of a first plurality of digital images with a corresponding image of a second plurality of digital images to obtain a summed digital image of a first region to a second region of the film; detecting first, second, and third defects using the summed digital image and storing first, second, and third coordinates associated with the first, second, and third defects, respectively, in a memory; and determining that the repeating defect is present when an axial distance between the first and second coordinates is substantially equal to an axial distance between the second and third coordinates (**Claim 44**).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

I) Lin et al. (US 6,040,584) disclose a method and system for determining the extent of deterioration of a bill including transmitted and reflected light images.

II) Stringa (US 5,598,006) discloses a system for controlling a quality of printed sheets comprising means for transferring said sheets, and cameras for checking the print quality.

III) Kihira (US 5,691,811) discloses a method of detecting a defect of a transparent sheet in which light source casts light on a transparent sheet through a slit plate, a camera receives the light transmitted through the sheet and produces an image for inspection of a defect.

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IV) Rivera et al. (US 7,030,400) discloses an apparatus and method for web inspection utilizing simultaneous capturing of reflected and transmitted light images for real-time merging of same.

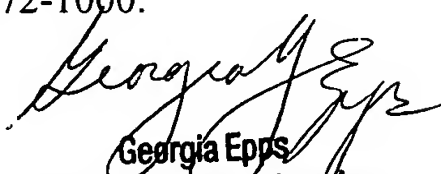
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Pascal M. Bui-Pho whose telephone number is (571) 272-2714. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Georgia Epps can be reached on (571) 272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Georgia Epps
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800